

April 10, 2006

U.S. Serial No. 10/533,971

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A filter element extracting jig, characterized in that the filter element extracting jig is formed from a plate, and a supporting portion and a hook portion are formed by bending, said hook portion extending substantially in the shape of V with respect to said supporting portion, said hook portion has an edge that engages an inner hole of a replaceable filter cartridge element.

Claim 2 (original): A filter element extracting jig, characterized in that the filter element extracting jig is formed from an elastic plate, and a supporting portion, a spring portion extending at an acute angle with said supporting portion, a hook portion extending toward said supporting portion, and an operating portion extending at substantially right angles from said hook portion, are formed by bending in that order at bent portions.

Claim 3 (original): A filter element extracting jig, characterized in that the filter element extracting jig comprises a supporting portion, a spring portion extending from a leading end of said supporting portion via a first bent portion at an acute angle with respect to said supporting portion, a hook portion extending from the other end of said spring portion via a second bent portion toward said supporting portion, and an operating portion extending from the other end of said hook portion via a third bent portion at substantially right angles with respect to said hook portion.

Claim 4 (original): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that said bent portions are substantially parallel to each other.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The filter element extracting jig according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that said supporting portion has a handle portion at a top end thereof, and a finger engaging opening is provided at the handle portion.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The filter element extracting jig according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 8 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 2, characterized in that said supporting portion has a handle portion at a top end thereof, and a finger engaging opening is provided at the handle portion.

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Claim 9 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 3, characterized in that said supporting portion has a handle portion at a top end thereof, and a finger engaging opening is provided at the handle portion.

Claim 10 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 4, characterized in that said supporting portion has a handle portion at a top end thereof, and a finger engaging opening is provided at the handle portion.

Claim 11 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 2, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 12 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 3, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 13 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 4, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 14 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 5, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 15 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 8, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 16 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 9, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 17 (new): The filter element extracting jig according to claim 10, characterized in that the jig is formed from a single plastic or metal plate.

Claim 18 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 2 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 19 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 3 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 20 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 4 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 21 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 5 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 22 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 6 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

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Claim 23 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 8 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 24 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 9 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 25 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 10 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 26 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 11 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 27 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 12 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 28 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 13 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 29 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 14 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 30 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 15 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 31 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 16 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

Claim 32 (new): The combination of the filter element extracting jig according to claim 17 and a plastic bag accommodating said extracting jig in such a manner that it is opened on a side of a top end of said supporting portion.

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